

members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Houston is home to one of the largest populations of military service members and their families in the nation. There are over 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan. For the brave men and women who have been wounded in combat, help is on the way.

Although some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye they are still wounds that should be properly treated. One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

Jackson Lee Amendment #5 will improve the efficiency of the management system and how the Department of Defense inventory will support modernization that uses technology to tag and track items purchased to increase transparency to the agency on what it has and where it is located. This change could mean tens of millions in savings if implemented DoD wide by reducing labor cost for tracking and moving equipment, but more important prevent repurchasing of items that agency already owns, but may not be able to locate.

The private sector has leaped forward in using inventory tracking technology and protocols to monitor large and small products from the time they leave manufacturing facilities until they are sold at retail or wholesale stores.

The DoD is one of the largest customers for products in the nation and should have the benefit of the best knowledge and technology available to more efficiently manage its inventory.

The most advanced warehouse inventory management systems are fully automated and biometrically controlled to track items and create records of people who make request to transport items from storage to use. These systems make sure that persons seeking to move items have the authority to do so and that the requests create records that can be tracked as well as track the items moved. These fully automated warehouses have no staff, but rely upon technology that is designed to store and retrieve items in the most cost effective and efficient manner possible.

Jackson Lee Amendment #5 will extend economic opportunity to small businesses by requiring DoD to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and minorities before conversion of certain functions to contractor performance would aid the economy. Federal contracting can be an important revenue source for businesses of any size. In fiscal year 2011, federal agencies obligated a total of around \$537 billion in government contracts to businesses. However, federal agencies' goal for contracting with women and minority owned businesses is five percent.

The Department of Defense is a major consumer of products and services that range from office products to military specific equipment. The wide ranges of business opportunities provide ample reasons to engage women and minority owned businesses as contractors or subcontractors.

In addition to the Jackson Lee Amendments offered to this bill, I joined my Colleagues on the Committee on Homeland Security in supporting an amendment to promote collabora-

tion and cooperation between the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security regarding the identification of equipment, either declared excess, or made available to DHS on a long-term loan basis that will help increase security along the border.

I also request that my colleagues support another amendment that I joined in sponsoring along with the leadership of the House Committee on Homeland Security which would allow the transfer of technology from DoD to state and local law enforcement. Before the creation of DHS a program was created to facilitate this type of equipment transfer and this amendment adds the Secretary of Homeland Security in a consultative role in the equipment transfer process. This amendment also gives applicants seek DoD equipment for use in border security preference in this statute. This will facilitate expedited transfer of equipment that Federal, state and local first responders can use to strengthen our border security efforts.

I do have grave concerns about some features of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. For example this bill assumes adoption of the House Budget Resolution framework, which would hurt our economy and require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities. This is a serious concern for me because of how it would impact my constituents in the 18th Congressional District.

The Administration has communicated that it would veto this bill in its current form and I hope that the conference process will resolve the issues that are the most troubling like the treatment of the Guantanamo detainees. This issue is a mark against everything the United States stands for and it is damaging our reputation and credibility around the world.

The detentions should end and people properly processed to other facilities or tried in courts of law to address charges or crimes against the United States. My hope is that this provision will be dropped from the bill as the legislative process goes forward.

We must continue to direct our efforts as a body to ensure that our troops remain the best equipped and prepared military force in the world. They are not just soldiers they are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters—they are some of the people we represent as members of Congress. Support of them is a sacred obligation of Congress both to those who are at risk on battlefields and serving as the guard against threats around the world, but they are also those who have returned home from war.

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this bill.

HONORING ROY APSELOFF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exemplary public servant, Roy Apseloff. After 32 years of service, Mr. Apseloff will be retiring from the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Apseloff is a native of Kent, Ohio and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Cornell University. He continued his education earning a Master of Arts in International

Relations from Catholic University and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College. He began his career with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1981 as a U.S. Navy Officer assigned to the Directorate for Collection. Mr. Apseloff transitioned to civilian service in 1985 and since then he has held a series of positions of increasing responsibility within human intelligence and collection operations.

Mr. Apseloff will be retiring from the Defense Intelligence Agency as the Vice President for Information Management and Deputy CIO; he also serves as the Deputy Chief of a Global Information Technology organization of over 3,000 people and \$1 billion that provides IT support to 20,000 customers worldwide. In addition, Mr. Apseloff serves on various senior interagency boards and forums. Despite leaving for civilian service in 1985, Mr. Apseloff continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve until his retirement in 2003 with the rank of captain. His many reserve assignments included: Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. His longtime service in the U.S. Navy is yet another testament to his long career of service to his country.

Mr. Apseloff's exemplary work ethic has been recognized by the many awards and distinctions he has received in his 32 years with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He has received the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, the DIA Director's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service, and the Defense Intelligence Director's Award.

I want to extend my warm and sincere thanks to Roy Apseloff for his life's devotion to serving his country. His long and illustrious career with the United States Navy and The Defense Intelligence Agency will not be forgotten. I would like to wish him congratulations on all he has accomplished and all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM E. THRASH

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Kennesaw City Councilman William E. "Bill" Thrash, and thank him for his service to country and community.

After a long battle with cancer, Bill passed away on May 22.

A native of Texas, Thrash grew up in Oklahoma before serving in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, and the Colorado National Guard. After his service, he attended nursing school and was an EMT/paramedic in his early career before moving into the security management business.

In 1992, Thrash moved to Kennesaw and began looking to ways that he could serve the community. He served on the Kennesaw Development Authority, the Downtown Development Authority, the Recreation and Culture Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission before his election to city council in 2001. At the time of his passing, he was serving his third term after being re-elected in 2010, and being named Mayor Pro-Tem in 2011.

Thrash was a role model and community leader, he served in the Georgia Municipal and Cobb Municipal associations, and his service to the National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education, and Families, Thrash was named Citizen of the Year by the Northwest Cobb Area Council of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kennesaw Business Association.

His colleagues and friends will always remember Thrash as someone who loved public service and was particularly passionate about creating programs for young people to thrive in the community. He is credited as being the driving force behind an after-school recreational program for at-risk teens, and for the development of Cantrell Park.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to William E. Thrash's wife Suzie, his daughter Mandy, and sons Robbie and Billy during these most difficult of times. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chair, I'm pleased to rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, the Deployed Troops Support Act, which has been accepted as an Amendment to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

I would like to thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their support in helping this important Amendment to move forward. I would also like to thank the cosponsors of H.R. 1756, the Deployed Troops Support Act for their support: FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, DENNIS ROSS of Florida, LOUIS GOHMERT of Texas, WILLIAM ENYART of Illinois, CHRISTOPHER GIBSON of New York, KERRY BENTIVOLIO of Mississippi, DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, LARRY BUCHSHON of Indiana, and DEREK KILMER of Washington.

Mr. Chairman, when our soldiers are deployed to defend our Nation, many patriotic Americans show their support for our brave men and women in uniform by putting together care packages. This Amendment simply allows the Department of Defense to transport, on a space available basis, goods supplied by nonprofit organizations to members of the Armed Services who are deployed overseas.

This Amendment gives veterans' nonprofits and other private charitable organizations that support our troops the same consideration that organizations are already given for transporting humanitarian goods to foreign nationals overseas. In this Amendment, we extend

the same courtesy for our own troops that we have granted to foreigners under the "Denton Program" since 1985.

We also ensure that the Secretary has the authority to determine that there is a legitimate need for the goods being shipped, that supplies are suitable for distribution, and that adequate arrangements have been made for distribution.

This legislative idea was brought to my attention by veterans in my congressional district, specifically AVET Project in Brevard County. I especially commend Garren and Kim Cone and the members of AVET for their service to our Nation and their support for our soldiers. Again, thanks to everyone involved for helping to advance this common sense Amendment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Chair, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment on behalf of my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus: Reps. DIAZ-BALART, CARTER, and SIRE. We also have two other notable cosponsors: Rep. GINGREY, the former co-chair of the Caucus, and Rep. GRANGER. Our amendment would affirm the United States' longstanding economic and defensive partnership with Taiwan, which dates back to the 1940s.

This amendment reflects the same language adopted by voice vote in the House during consideration of the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act. In the 112th Congress, 181 Members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the Administration citing the "critical" need for the United States "to sell the government of Taiwan all the F-16 C/D [aircraft] it requires." The letter urged the Administration to "move quickly" on this matter and cited the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (TRA) as the statutory basis for such a sale.

The Administration's announcement to sell only a retrofit package for Taiwan's older fighter jets disappointed Taiwan's supporters. After all, U.S. policy with regard to the defensive capabilities of Taiwan is clearly outlined in the TRA, which states it is the policy of the U.S. "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character."

Moreover, three joint communiqués between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China (PRC), and the "Six Assurances" to Taipei offered by President Reagan, add additional context to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. The defensive weapons provision in the TRA has been an irritant in the relationship with Beijing, but this provision is necessary for Taiwan's defense.

It should be no surprise that advocates for Taipei's defensive needs continue to push for

the sale of the 66 F-16 C/D planes. It is important that U.S. obligations to provide for Taiwan's defenses—codified in and by the TRA—be dictated by our assessments of Taiwan's needs and not by the threat, implied or otherwise, of Taiwan's big neighbor. Beyond this defense relationship, the United States has strong economic ties with Taiwan. In 2010 total U.S. trade with Taiwan was \$61.9 billion, making it the 9th largest U.S. trading partner.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan amendment directing the President to sell 66 F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan.

HONORING SAL CASTRO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, Sal Castro (October 25, 1933–April 15, 2013) was a Mexican-American educator and activist. He was most well-known for his role in the student walkouts at East Los Angeles high schools in 1968. With Sal's assistance and guidance, the students protested against unequal conditions in the Los Angeles Unified School District schools.

Long after he retired from teaching, Sal continued his lectures that shared his experiences and the importance of education, particularly in Mexican American communities. After a seven month battle with cancer, Sal Castro passed away in his sleep on April 15, 2013.

A funeral mass was celebrated for Sal at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on April 25, 2013. In tribute to Mr. Castro's life efforts, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy honoring him which was delivered by Mario T. Garcia, Professor of Chicano Studies and History at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

EULOGY FOR: SAL CASTRO

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

Los Angeles, CA, April 25, 2013

About fifteen years ago, I invited Sal Castro to speak to my Chicano History class at UC Santa Barbara. My students and I were enthralled with the power of his voice, the humanity that he projected, and that wonderful humor. I knew then that I had to write his story. That story testifies to Sal's place in history and it is an honored place.

Very few of us have the opportunity to make history that affects others' lives. Sal Castro did that. He did that by first of all dedicating his career to being a teacher. There is nothing Sal would not do for his students. He did this for four decades and touched the lives of countless young people.

Sal made history by the inspirational and courageous leadership that he provided his kids as he called them in the 1968 Blowouts or walkouts in the East Los Angeles schools the largest high school student strike in American history. I do not believe that the Blowouts would have occurred without Sal's leadership. He put his career and perhaps even his life on the line for the students in this movement. He didn't do it because he personally wanted publicity or rewards. He did it because of the injustices of an educational system that for decades had denied Mexican American students a quality education and an opportunity to go to college. Sal Castro took on the entire educational establishment because they did not care about his kids.